

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09 RSC-01 ISO-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJECT: UNDP 19TH GOVERNING COUNCIL - COUNTRY PROGRAM  
REVIEW AND APPROVAL - LAOS

SUMMARY: UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL JANUARY 16 APPROVED COUNTRY PROGRAM

FOR LAOS. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR ASIA COOMARASWAMY  
MADE BRIEF INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON UNDP PROGRAMS ASIAN  
REGION AS A WHOLE, REPORTING HIGH RATE PROJECT APPROVALS,  
BUT SAID DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION AND SPECIAL MEASURES BEING  
TAKEN CORRECT THESE DELAYS. RE LAOS CP STRESSED EMPHASIS  
ON TRAINING COMPONENT, AND FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENT OF LARGE  
UNPROGRAMMED RESERVE TO PERMIT NEW GOVERNMENT MAKE ANY  
REVISIONS NECESSARY IN LIGHT CHANGING DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.  
THIRTEEN DELEGATIONS INTERVENED IN BRIEF DISCUSSION  
CP. END SUMMARY.

1. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR COOMARASWAMY INTRODUCED LAOS  
CP WITH BRIEF SUMMARY COMMENTS ON UNDP ASSISTANCE TO ASIAN  
REGION AS A WHOLE. NOTED THAT WITH TWO YEARS OF FIRST  
PROGRAMMING CYCLE STILL TO RUN, PROJECT REQUESTS ALREADY  
APPROVED TO VALUE OF 96 PERCENT INDICATIVE PLANNING FIGURE  
(IPF), THIS CYCLE. IN ADDITION 12 COUNTRIES ALREADY HAVE IPF  
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RESOURCES THIS CYCLE FULLY COMMITTED AND HAVE STARTED

PROGRAMMING RESOURCES FROM SECOND IPF PERIOD. SAID MAIN PROBLEM IN REGIONS REMAINED PROGRAM DELIVERY WITH PROBLEM PRIMARILY CENTERED ON 3 OR 4 SECTORS AND A SMALL NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. REPORTED THAT HIS BUREAU HAD CONDUCTED JOINT PROGRAM REVIEWS WITH THE EXECUTING AGENCIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED, AND IMPROVEMENTS EXPECTED 1975. ALSO, FORTHCOMING REGIONAL MEETING OF RESIDENT AND AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES WOULD DEAL INTER ALIA, WITH PROGRAM DELIVERY PROBLEMS. OBSERVED THAT WITH INCREASE IN IPF RESOURCES SCHEDULED FOR SECOND CYCLE, NEED TO IMPROVE RATE OF PROGRAM DELIVERY ACCENTUATED.

2. LAOS CP PRESENTED THIS GC SESSION IS SECOND CP FOR THAT COUNTRY DURING PRESENT CYCLE. COOMARASWAMY NOTED THAT PERIOD COVERED BY THIS PROGRAM ALSO EXTENDS INTO SECOND UNDP PROGRAMMING CYCLE IN ORDER COINCIDE TIME PERIOD OF NEW NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF LAOS. ALSO NOTED THAT PRESENT CP CONCENTRATED ON THOSE NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY SECTORAL ANALYSIS AS IMPORTANT TO ANY FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN LAOS. IN ADDITION SIZEABLE PORTION OF IPF HAS BEEN LEFT UNPROGRAMMED AS A CONTINGENCY TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES WHICH MIGHT EMERGE WHEN THE NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS COMPLETED. HE SAID THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE ANY REVISIONS IT DEEMED NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH NEXT PERIODIC REVIEW OF UNDP PROGRAM. COOMARASWAMY ALSO CITED SPECIAL TRAINING EMPHASIS IN CP AND ADDITIONAL UNDP FUNDS PROVIDED TO LAOS AS A "LEAST DEVELOPED" COUNTRY.

3. COUNTRY INTERVENTIONS - THIRTEEN DELEGATIONS INTERVENED BRIEFLY IN DISCUSSION CP. SWEDEN, CUBA, FRANCE AND OTHERS NOTED ADVISIBILITY OF THE FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS CP IN ORDER TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTRY. SWEDEN, IN THIS CONNECTION, STRESSED THAT THE CP SHOULD BE REVISED, IF NECESSARY, AS SOON AS THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS ANNOUNCED, AND SUGGESTED ALSO THAT PROSPECTS FOR CLOSER COOPERATION WITH UNICEF AND UNHCR BE CAREFULLY EXPLORED. HUNGARY AND OTHERS COMMENDED PRIORITY GIVEN TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN CP. COOMARASWAMY THANKED DELEGATIONS FOR THEIR COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF CP AND REITERATED THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE ANY REVISIONS NECESSARY IN LIGHT OF NEW PRIORITIES AT NEXT PERIODIC CP REVIEWS.

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4. CP APPROVED JANUARY 16 PLENARY SESSION. US MISSION FIELD COMMENTS

ESPECIALLY USEFUL US REVIEW THIS PROGRAM. GOVERNING COUNCIL DISCUSSION THIS CP BRIEF AND US DELEGATION DID NOT, REPEAT NOT, INTERVENE DISCUSSION. US COMMENTS THIS CP, INCLUDING FIELD COMMENTS ON

TRAINING, COORDINATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS WILL BE FORWARDED

DIRECTLY TO UNDP ADMINISTRATION.  
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